United Nations E/2014/NGO/1

# Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
7 May 2014

Original: English

**2014 session**
Item 5 (c) of the provisional agenda*
**High-level segment: annual ministerial review**

## Statement submitted by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation Family Violence Prevention and Legal Service (Victoria), a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2014/1/Rev.1, annex II.

14-32417 (E) 160514

Please recycle

## Statement

Aboriginal people are disproportionately overrepresented as victims of family violence. While available data is limited, we know that Aboriginal women in Australia are 34 times more likely to be hospitalized as a result of injuries caused by assault than non-Aboriginal women.

Family violence has broad impacts, including on Aboriginal women's imprisonment rates, child protection interventions and physical and mental health. Given the complexity of these issues, legal support is critical. There is strong evidence of the importance of legal services in addressing family violence in the long term, especially the use of protection orders and victims compensation. The effectiveness of protection orders is enhanced by victims having legal representation, advice and advocacy.

Aboriginal people face numerous barriers in accessing justice and in particular mainstream legal services. In 2009, in its report on access to justice, the Australian Senate acknowledged the ongoing chronic disadvantage of Aboriginal women and found that Aboriginal people's access to justice was compromised by a lack of properly funded Aboriginal legal services. It also noted that people living in regional, rural and remote areas were particularly disadvantaged. However, the decision to restrict family violence prevention and legal services to rural and remote locations also puts at a disadvantage Aboriginal people living in urban areas who are in effect abandoned to mainstream services, without adequately addressing issues of access, flexibility and relevance.

Despite these reports, government policy fails to recognize the multiple and complex barriers that prevent Aboriginal people from accessing the legal system. Culturally safe family violence prevention and legal services continue to be chronically underfunded and restricted to providing services in a limited number of regional and remote locations around Australia, leaving large geographic gaps in coverage. A recent report commissioned by a government department stated that the family violence prevention and legal services units collectively service an area that covers approximately half the indigenous population, though much of this coverage in remote areas is extremely limited and often consists of one or two days per month.

At a time when rates of family violence are escalating, Aboriginal women's and children's safety is being threatened by the Government's failure to address gaps in access to justice. With approximately one third of the Aboriginal population living in capital cities, and a further 25 per cent living in inner regional areas, the restriction means large numbers of Aboriginal victims/survivors of family violence in urban and inner regional areas cannot access specialist culturally safe family violence legal services.

There are also a number of rural and remote areas with very high needs that do not receive adequate levels of service to meet demand. With only 31 rural and remote locations serviced, many such communities continue to miss out. Even where family violence prevention and legal services are located, the funding provided is insufficient to meet the much higher cost of delivering services remotely and the complex needs of remote communities.

It is the responsibility of Governments to provide protection and access to support and intervention services. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women has highlighted that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women have limited access to legal services and called on the Government to fund culturally safe Aboriginal women's legal services in urban, rural and remote areas of Australia.

United Nations E/2014/NGO/2*

# Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
7 May 2014

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**2014 session**
Item 5 (c) of the provisional agenda**
**High-level segment: annual ministerial review**

## Statement submitted by Alliance Defense Fund, Mujer para la Mujer, Pro-Life Campaign, and Red Mujeres, Desarrollo, Justicia y Paz, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* Reissued for technical reasons on 19 June 2014.
** E/2014/1/Rev.1, annex II.

14-03927* (E) 230614

Please recycle

## Statement

Alliance Defense Fund is a not-for-profit international legal alliance of over 2,300 lawyers dedicated to the protection of fundamental human rights.

Pro-Life Campaign, Mujer para la Mujer and Red Mujeres, Desarrollo, Justicia y Paz are non-governmental organizations from Ireland and Mexico.

On the occasion of the 2014 High-level segment of the Economic and Social Council, we call on Member States to reaffirm our immutable human rights with a particular focus on authentic solutions to development that prioritize the needs of the person. Person-centred solutions focus on harnessing human ingenuity to drive development. It is imperative that the United Nations reaffirms the principles found in the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, which states that people are at the centre of sustainable development.

The needs of human beings are the priority. These needs should be addressed from the youngest stages of development. In doing so, we propose the United Nations recommits to the goals of health and education that inevitably lead to reducing poverty and hunger, reducing child mortality and combating diseases.

We find it fitting to address the demographic time bomb that we are currently facing. Policies that promote a smaller family size, which include access to abortion, have led to low birth rates. This has resulted in an increasing ageing population with fewer young people who are uniquely equipped to drive development.

We call upon Member States to focus on the first 1,000 days of life. The medical journal *The Lancet* published a series of articles indicating that maternal and child nutrition are quintessential to sustainable development. Both maternal malnutrition and obesity were studied in pregnant women and girls, resulting in child mortality and impaired physical and cognitive development, with lasting detrimental effects to the economic health of countries. Investing in education and health care for the first 1,000 days of life can save the lives of both mothers and their children, helping countries thrive.

We urge Member States to rely on evidence-based medical facts on maternal mortality. In its study on the global burden of disease, the World Health Organization concluded that the main causes of maternal deaths were: 23 per cent due to postpartum haemorrhage; 15 per cent to maternal hypertension; 9 per cent to sepsis; and the rest due to a mix of reasons, including obstructed labour, HIV/AIDS, cardiovascular disease, malaria and anaemia. A 50-year study in Chile demonstrated that it was a woman's education level that led to a reduction in maternal mortality, not the legalization of abortion. In order to improve maternal health we call on Member States to implement five measures: (a) promote higher education levels for women; (b) ensure prenatal, antenatal and postnatal care; (c) ensure women in labour are cared for by skilled birth attendants; (d) ensure emergency obstetric care; and (e) provide access to water and sanitation.

### Conclusion

The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development brought the world together to ensure global answers to global problems. The role education and health play in ensuring goals on poverty eradication, respect for the environment and ensuring economic growth are measurable and evident. This is a critical opportunity for the United Nations to condemn coercive population targets and propose positive goals that embrace human dignity that drive development.

United Nations E/2014/NGO/3

# Economic and Social Council

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7 May 2014

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**2014 session**
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**High-level segment: annual ministerial review**

## Statement submitted by All-Russiaa Public Organization of Disabled People with Multiple Sclerosis, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2014/1/Rev.1, annex II.

14-32429 (E) 160514

Please recycle

## Statement

In September 2011, Member States and heads of Government turned attention to prevention and better control for non-communicable diseases globally. For the first time, worldwide leaders reached consensus on specific measures in dealing with the diseases.

Developed countries' economy capacities have grown, finances for health systems increased, prevention, diagnostics and therapy novice methods are being introduced. However, the average consumer's satisfaction with medical services remains low. At most, 40 per cent of Russians are happy with the medical aid they receive. Our NGO, All-Russian Public Organization of Disabled People with Multiple Sclerosis, has put forward an initiative for public control in healthcare as a system to negotiate obstacles in achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

We call upon the world community to consider the frightening mortality figures provided by the World Health Organization (WHO): 64 million deaths are expected in the world in 2014, including 17 million deaths caused by infectious diseases, maternal and perinatal conditions and nutritional deficiencies, and 41 million deaths — up 17 per cent compared with 10 years ago — from chronic non-communicable diseases, nearly half of which (20 million) will be caused by cardiovascular conditions.

Health care is the main investment in economic development of our civilization and poverty reduction. Developing health-care capacities for the poor brings big profits for society altogether, the well-off included. Diseases are destructive for poor people and national economies, decreasing manpower quantity and efficiency and depleting savings and investments.

People suffering from poverty and discrimination are more vulnerable to diseases due to deprivations and psychological stress, gender inequality, unhealthy life conditions and a limited access to quality health-care services. Therefore, we urge Governments to support national programmes to help patients with chronic diseases, improve the efficiency of these existing programmes and organize a public control system to ensure their implementation.

If we decrease chronic diseases by mere 2 per cent, as WHO expects, we could save 36 million lives by 2015. To achieve the targets to enhance the efficiency of financing the health-care system in the Russian Federation, our organization seeks to arrange a public control system in health care through various facilities to monitor health-care issues, as well as holding public hearings and audits, including regular involvement and drawing attention of media as well as public councils at health bodies.

Russian authorities have supported public control in the area of health care, but the experiences and inputs of the international community are essential to efficiently make this system work. We propose the creation of a discussion platform to exchange experiences in public control in health care and encourage non-governmental organizations concerned to join this platform's activities.

United Nations E/2014/NGO/4

# Economic and Social Council

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**2014 session**
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**High-level segment: annual ministerial review**

## Statement submitted by American Foundation of Savoy Orders, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2014/1/Rev.1, annex II.

14-32435 (E) 160514

Please recycle

## Statement

The American Foundation of Savoy Orders supports the 2014 theme of addressing on-going and emerging challenges for meeting the Millennium Development Goals in 2015 and for sustaining development gains in the future. The Foundation is a charitable and philanthropic organization that provides support for hospitals, relief agencies and assistance for the poor, sick and elderly. The Foundation's experience has been developed through numerous initiatives across North America and abroad in the fields of education, emergency disaster, medical and poverty relief, social services and children's causes. The Millennium Development Goals represent an unprecedented partnership among nations to better the disadvantaged across the globe. As the 2015 target date approaches, many countries have already made extraordinary progress, improving the lives of millions of people. But not all countries or regions of the world are on track to meet the goals. The Millennium Development Goal indicators reveal vast disparities between developed and developing countries, and even among developing countries there are wide differences.

Moreover, developing nations face numerous barriers to achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Some of these barriers are unique and country-specific, while others are broadly shared. Common problems faced by developing nations include conflict, instability, poor starting conditions, weak governance and institutions and environmental degradation. To meet the Millennium Development Goals and create a sustainable path to development, countries must adopt policies and programmes to overcome these problems. Developed countries and civil society each have a role to play in assisting developing countries to overcome these barriers and to meet the goals. Developed countries must take the lead and continue with their pledge to renew and strengthen partnerships for development, including providing aid and promoting policies and programmes. Aid donors from civil society, on the other hand, must ensure that development assistance is flexible enough to help countries address these challenges and meet the Millennium Development Goals.

The Foundation believes that the challenges faced by developing countries must be addressed lest the risk of putting the Millennium Development Goals remain beyond the reach of many countries. For its part, The American Foundation of Savoy Orders is deeply committed to humanitarian and charitable projects for the poor, particularly charities that serve children.

United Nations E/2014/NGO/5

# Economic and Social Council

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**2014 session**
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**High-level segment: annual ministerial review**

## Statement submitted by the Burundi Association for Integration and Sustainable Development, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2014/1/Rev.1, annex II.

14-03922 (E) 190514 110614

Please recycle

## Statement

The written statement of the Burundi Association for Integration and Sustainable Development is concerned with four main points, namely: strategies for the implementation of a global partnership bringing together indigenous peoples' organizations; pursuit of the post-2015 agenda for indigenous people's development to maintain inclusive global cooperation; promotion mechanisms at the national level, and global responsibility for, and follow-up of, the development of indigenous peoples; and the integration of indigenous organizations having consultative status, to engage in constructive dialogue to identify indigenous groups' economic and sociocultural problems.

As regards strategies for the establishment of a world partnership bringing together indigenous organizations, we propose to put forward a resolution that will encourage governments, United Nations agencies and other funding programmes to integrate indigenous peoples' organizations into the global platform and to support them. In addition, we request that the commissions and subcommissions of each region of the Economic and Social Council create a framework for close cooperation with indigenous organizations in consultative status with the Council for the purpose of creating specific funds for indigenous peoples and their sustainable development.

With respect to pursuit of the post-2015 agenda for indigenous people's development to maintain inclusive global cooperation, we urge that indigenous organizations in consultative status with the Council be involved in decision-making on funds for their development. We further request that a section responsible for indigenous peoples' issues be established within United Nations agencies to mobilize funds in support of indigenous organizations' initiatives.

In the area of promotion mechanisms at the national level, and global responsibility for, and follow-up of, the development of indigenous peoples, the United Nations General Assembly should, in conjunction with the Council, set up a mechanism to review the various governments and United Nations agencies to verify that funds allocated are in fact used for the sustainable development of indigenous peoples. We ask also that a global platform be put in place, with the involvement of indigenous organizations, to promote their sustainable development.

As regards a constructive dialogue to identify indigenous groups' economic and sociocultural problems, we would like the United Nations' funding programmes to support the delegates of indigenous peoples' organizations in consultative status with the Council in participating in high-level meetings to make their oral statements. We also request that support be given to such organizations' delegates so that they can participate in international conferences at the level of the Council's subcommissions and of United Nations agencies.

The Association recommends that the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the United Nations Development Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and the International Fund for Agricultural Development provide support for indigenous peoples' organizations in consultative status with the Council.

United Nations E/2014/NGO/6

# Economic and Social Council

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## Statement submitted by Child Care Consortium, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2014/1/Rev.1, annex II.

14-03921 (E) 120614

Please recycle

## Statement

The first and foremost challenge is gender inequity. The response towards the implementation of Goal 3 of the Millennium Development Goals has been very slow.

Gender inequity causes the deterioration of social responsibility and increases crony capitalism, which then challenges social accountability and depletes natural resources.

The vast depletion of natural resources increases global warming, which cannot be considered as human development in sustaining gains.

Human development needs to balance human emotional intimacy with moral legitimate values in oneself through gender equity in order to achieve social responsibility and accountability for periodic growth and reproduction at the global level.

There should be more focus on fast-tracking Goal 3, as well as Goal 7, in India to protect natural resources and recycling processes to achieve the Millennium Development Goals in 2015 and sustain gains in the future.

United Nations E/2014/NGO/7

# Economic and Social Council

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## Statement submitted by Christian Blind Mission, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2014/1/Rev.1, annex II.

14-32453 (E) 160514

Please recycle

## Statement

Christian Blind Mission welcomes the theme "Addressing on-going and emerging challenges for meeting the Millennium Development Goals in 2015 and for sustaining gains in the future". The organization is encouraging Governments to realize a disability-inclusive post-2015 development agenda.

There is wide recognition that progress within the existing framework of the Millennium Development Goals has not been equitable and that persons with disabilities are disproportionately represented among those left behind by recent development gains. Intracountry inequalities have widened, affecting persons with disabilities to a disproportionate degree.

Persons with disabilities continue to face barriers to participation in society, including access to development programmes and funds, education, employment, health care, communication and transportation services. They are particularly at risk to the effects of climate change, such as natural disasters and food insecurity, and are more vulnerable in conflict situations. The invisibility of persons with disabilities in the original Millennium Development Goals was accompanied by lack of data on them, which led to an underestimation of their demographic importance. Representatives from organizations of persons with disabilities were not involved in the Millennium Development Goals process.

The organization recommends the following for sustaining gains in the future:

(a) Disaggregated data on persons with disabilities. In the past, many quantitative instruments, especially in developing countries, employed methodologies that greatly underrepresented persons with disabilities. Recent advances in methods of identifying persons with disabilities through surveys, censuses and administrative data systems are improving the ability to develop, monitor and evaluate policies aimed at promoting inclusion in an internationally comparative way.

(b) Inequalities must be tackled across all new goals according to the "leave no one behind" principles. Learning from gaps in the Millennium Development Goals process, the post-2015 development agenda needs to be based on human rights and address the challenges faced by persons with disabilities. When everyone, irrespective of household income, gender, location, ethnicity, age or disability, has access to health, nutrition, education and other vital services, many of the worst effects of inequality will cease.

(c) Targets that are inclusive of persons with disabilities need to promote inclusion and accessibility. The High-level meeting of the General Assembly on disability and development, held in September 2013, set out very clear commitments on ensuring accessibility for and inclusion of persons with disabilities in all aspects of development and of giving due consideration to all persons with disabilities in the emerging post-2015 United Nations development agenda. Specific targets and indicators related to the availability of required enabling structural factors are needed.

The inclusion of persons with disabilities will largely contribute to the eradication of poverty. An inclusive society for all cannot be achieved without the global empowerment of persons with disabilities.

United Nations E/2014/NGO/8

# Economic and Social Council

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## Statement submitted by World Jewellery Confederation, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2014/1/Rev.1, annex II.

14-32459 (E) 190514

Please recycle

## Statement

The international jewellery and gemstone sectors, through the World Jewellery Confederation, supports and promotes the creation of sustainable economic opportunities in developing countries and in so doing will advance the goals and objectives of the United Nations development agenda, and in particular continue to meet the Millennium Development Goals.

The Confederation recognizes the responsibility of the international jewellery and gemstone sectors to enable and support developing countries to utilize their natural resources so that sustainable and equitable economic opportunities will be created. This is an essential tool to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, especially in Africa, where much of the jewellery industry's raw materials are sourced.

The Confederation is committed to the principle that corporate social responsibility includes both the requirement that the jewellery business and its products be devoid of ethical impropriety and also that they play a positive role in creating sustainable economic opportunities in the countries and communities where raw materials are sourced. It believes that consumer confidence will be enhanced when the public appreciates that jewellery plays a constructive role in supporting sustainable development, providing for decent living conditions and the well-being of the people and communities that depend upon it for their sustenance.

The Confederation recommends that the global jewellery and gemstone industries act to support the new post-2015 development agenda and its new sustainable development goals, though economic growth and stability shared by the community.

The Confederation recommends that the global jewellery and gemstone industries, through its ethical values and through its business strategies, support the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which aims to protect humanity from abuse and oppression and also to ensure that it enjoys equitable opportunity and the promise of a better future.

United Nations E/2014/NGO/9

# Economic and Social Council

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**High-level segment: annual ministerial review**

## Statement submitted by Concile Mondial de Congres Diplomatiques des Aumoniers pour la Paix Universelle des Droits Humains et Juridiques, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2014/1/Rev.1, annex II.

14-03918 (E) 230514

Please recycle

## Statement

Regarding post-2015 development, we consider that new objectives and indicators should be transformed into sophisticated hybrid indicators and sophisticated measurement systems, which would eventually be based on the country's national statistics capabilities. In much of Haiti, as perhaps in various other countries, such capabilities are largely non-existent. In several departments of Haiti, the unfinished work on the Millennium Development Goals will continue to be the chief priority and even in that area the capacity of current systems leaves much to be desired, including as regards financial resources.

How can innovations in data sources and tools be used to overcome measurement shortcomings and enhance the comparability of country data? What technical support is needed?

Firstly, innovations such as big data are new sources of databases for producing statistical information on a global scale. Secondly, new technologies and innovations encourage the use of large volumes of data to produce statistical information.

Actually, big data generate enormous volumes of structured and unstructured data that are difficult to process by using traditional database techniques and software.

In several departments in Haiti, the principal sources of statistical information are still censuses, surveys and administrative files. The country is therefore still a long way away from using innovation and new ways of tapping data. It is still grappling with such fundamental issues as a very small pool of qualified professionals and lack of access to — even basic — information and communication technologies.

What can be done to improve the monitoring and measurement of development at the national, subnational, regional and global levels? What is the best way to meet current challenges in this field?

The main problem with monitoring and measuring development in Haiti is the lack of a sound statistical information system, due to a core failure to grasp its importance in political circles. Decision-makers need to invest systematically in forging statistical data production capabilities, including data collection, analysis and dissemination according to best international practices.

United Nations E/2014/NGO/10

# Economic and Social Council

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**High-level segment: annual ministerial review**

## Statement submitted by Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2014/1/Rev.1, annex II.

14-32477 (E) 190514

Please recycle

## Statement

A goal on social protection floors for everyone must be elaborated in the post-2015 development agenda. Implementation of national social protection floors, as outlined in the International Labour Organization (ILO) recommendation No. 202 of June 2012, would address ongoing and emerging challenges for meeting the Millennium Development Goals in 2015 and provide for a consistent and coherent way for sustaining gains in the future. If implemented, they are a step in the right direction towards a transformational agenda leaving no one behind. ILO recommendation 202 was accepted unanimously by the member States of ILO and an equal number of national workers and employer delegations. To date, it is supported by more than 90 civil society organizations.

Rights-based national social protection floors are overarching, comprehensive and indispensable social policy tools for achieving the eradication of poverty and the reduction of inequality. Well-designed social protection floors will proactively enhance gender equality because social protection guarantees have multiple and interconnected beneficial effects, which can cause a virtuous circle.

The Commission on Social Development at its fifty-second session encourages Governments to continue to develop, improve and implement inclusive, effective and sustainable social protection systems and social protection floors on the basis of national priorities for all members of society. The Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-eighth session named social protection as a way of addressing the multiple and intersecting factors contributing to the disproportionate impact of poverty on women and girls over the life cycle.

Social protection floors are:

(a) Conceptually clear. They embody a comprehensive and coherent goal for the social dimension of sustainable human development that avoids competition between different social goals and are being successfully developed at the national level;

(b) Technically possible but still ambitious. While proven to be feasible and affordable, they are flexible in means, clear on objectives, concrete and measurable;

(c) Politically accepted and acceptable. Social protection floors emerge from participatory national policy development and standards and are already accepted by global consensus.

Social protection floors have also proved that they can be used to eradicate extreme poverty, reduce inequality, enhance gender equality, improve the educational status of people, ensure health gains for underprivileged and vulnerable groups and develop a more productive workforce.

Fiscal space for social protection floors exists in virtually every country with many options available. All that is required is the political will to invest in people. Effective country-specific social protection floors can gradually expand and are affordable and financially sustainable through the reallocation of public expenditures. Financing social protection floors can be achieved by cutting back on military expenditures, increasing tax revenues, fighting illicit financial flows, restructuring debt and adopting a more accommodative macroeconomic framework. The implementation of social protection floors can offer important macroeconomic

benefits and increase the presence of countercyclical buffers to reduce the negative effects of economic downswings.

Well-designed social protection floors serve as economy and social stabilizers in times of crisis and should never be compromised in times of fiscal crisis. Social protection floors offer genuine possibilities for addressing ongoing and emerging challenges.

United Nations E/2014/NGO/11

# Economic and Social Council

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## Statement submitted by Convention of Independent Financial Advisors, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2014/1/Rev.1, annex II.

14-03916 (E) 300514

Please recycle

## Statement

In December 2013, an exchange of views on the private sector's perspective on the post-2015 development agenda, global partnerships and innovative financing was held by Convention of Independent Financial Advisors under the auspices of the Forum for Small States. Some 20 Member State delegates participated in exchanging views with Convention panellists. This was an opportunity to listen to innovative presentations from the organization, in a field not open to all, from a pro-market and pro-investors' perspective.

Convention of Independent Financial Advisors was presented as the only global investment organization with special consultative status at the Economic and Social Council, representing 20 per cent of worldwide investments, with a network of over 750,000 financial advisers. The voice of the organization is meant to offer an alternative view on the resolution of and solutions to the current world financial crisis, with an emphasis on ethical financial markets and investments.

It was observed that the financial crises in the past 20 years started mostly in the large developed economies: the savings and loans debacle in the 1990s; the 1998 emerging market crisis provoked by long-term capital management; the 2000 dot-com bubble; the 2003 Enron collapse; and the 2008 meltdown stemming from excessive speculation by the large banking institutions.

The role of the organization is to raise awareness of the risk of such disasters plunging economies into depression again and throwing millions of people into unemployment. It also tries to spot future major socioeconomic conflicts that could constitute a systemic threat to the world economy. Of major concern is the looming clash between generations and financial market imbalances in world trade defeating the United Nations development agenda and the Millennium Development Goals.

It was noted that after 14 years of implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, 842 million people are still suffering from hunger and child labour and slavery numbers remain high. The Gini coefficient improved by a mere 1.4 points between 2002 and 2010. Goal 8 (promoting partnerships with civil society and the private sector) has yielded only modest results.

The organization's panellists explained how excessive regulations and taxation have become dispiriting factors for investors, as well as job-killers. The organization's Charter of Investors Rights adopted in 2005 encourages new ethical investments in developing countries in an investor-friendly context.

It was observed that the post-2015 development agenda should encourage basic values for young generations of investors, such as honesty, and an entrepreneurial, risk-oriented and work-oriented spirit. The post-2015 development agenda requires grass-root consultations with civil society organizations, with young generations and with the private sector. Failure to have such partnerships, promoted by Goal 8, will render it meaningless. The post-2015 keyword "SMART" must truly reflect "specific, measurable, attainable, realistic and time-bound quantitative targets" agreed to by all stakeholders.

United Nations E/2014/NGO/12

# Economic and Social Council

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**High-level segment: annual ministerial review**

## Statement submitted by Doha International Institute for Family Studies and Development, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2014/1/Rev.1, annex II.

14-32490 (E) 160514

Please recycle

## Statement

We, the representatives of civil society, academia, policymakers and individuals participating in the International Conference organized in Doha, on 16 and 17 April 2014 by the Doha International Family Institute, member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development, to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family,

Having considered the conference theme "Empowering Families: A Pathway to Development",

Reaffirming that the family is not only the fundamental group unit of society but is also the fundamental agent for sustainable, social, economic and cultural development,

Stressing the importance of designing, implementing and monitoring family-oriented policies, especially in the areas of poverty eradication, full employment and decent work, work-family balance and social integration and intergenerational solidarity,

Emphasizing that the achievement of development goals especially those relating to the eradication of poverty, education of children, especially girls, and reduction in maternal mortality depends, to a significant extent, on how families are empowered to fulfil their numerous functions,

Emphasizing further that strategic focus on families offers a comprehensive approach to solving some of the persistent development challenges, such as inequality and social exclusion,

Call upon Governments to empower and enable families to contribute to development by taking the following actions:

1. Develop comprehensive and coherent policies, integrate a cross-sectoral approach to support family stability and establish/strengthen a national mechanism to develop family-oriented policies and programmes and allocate adequate human and financial resources to implement, monitor and evaluate them.

2. Promote gender equality and the empowerment of women, reform discriminatory laws and policies, particularly family laws, and enact legislation to end child marriage and violence against women.

3. Recognize the contribution and responsibility of men to families, develop policies to address the impact of the absence of males/fathers on family well-being and promote active fatherhood.

4. Focus poverty alleviation strategies on the family as a unit and acknowledge that family breakdown can be both a root cause and an effect of poverty and its prevention is a priority.

5. Adopt policies to ensure work-family balance, so that the responsibilities of parenting and maintaining families do not fall primarily on women and collaborate with the private sector to protect and support workers with family responsibilities.

6. Value important contributions of all generations within the family, design and implement policies to strengthen intergenerational solidarity and partnerships and promote healthy intrafamily relations.

7. Ensure the systematic collection of data and statistics on family well-being and collaborate on good practice exchange at the national, regional and international levels.

8. Develop and implement family-focused policies and interventions to strengthen and support families in vulnerable situations (such as conflict, natural disasters and health epidemics, including HIV/AIDS and malaria).

9. Create an enabling environment for a meaningful contribution of civil society organizations in the design, implementation and monitoring of family policies and programmes and remove barriers to the establishment, work and funding of non-governmental organizations.

10. Acknowledge that families are at the centre of sustainable development and ensure that families are an integral part of the post-2015 development agenda.